

00580

1970/06/09



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

9

O 090805Z JUN 70
FM USDAO/PHNOM PENH
TO RUEKJCS/DIA IMMEDIATE
INFO RUHHHQA/CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
RUEFHQA/CSA
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

CN-1994
June 9, 1970
5:20 a.m.

BT

S E C R E T USDAO 225 JUN 70.

REF: DIA 1864 DTG 071853Z JUN 70.

1. (S) IN ACCORDANCE WITH DESIRES OF CHIEF OF MISSION, BULK OF REPORTING ON SIEM REAP (UV 7376) HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET/NODIS/KHMER AND TRANSMITTED THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS WITH FLASH OR IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE. ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON ENEMY AS WELL AS FRIENDLY SITUATION HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THESE MESSAGES.

2. (S) DATT IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH GENERAL POK SAM AN, CHIEF OF JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER, AND COLONEL BU TITH, J-2 OF JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER. THESE TWO ARE THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICERS ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE CAMBODIAN ARMED FORCES. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE URGENT NEED FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ENEMY UNITS AND ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP THIS INFORMATION AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. WE ARE MEETING TOGETHER 3 TO 5 TIMES DAILY.

3. (S) AT 0300 ON 9 JUNE 70, POK SAM AN ADVISED DATT THAT AIRPORT AT SIEM REAP (UV 7383) HAD BEEN SECURED AND THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO SEND AIRCRAFT O SIEM REAP WITH RESUPPLY OF FOOD AND AMMUNITION ETD PHNOM PENH AT 0900 WITH ETA 1000 ON 9 JUNE. AT SUGGESTION OF DATT, HE ALSO DIRECTED BU TITH TO MOVE AN INTELLIGENCE TEAM INTO THE AREA IN ORDER TO INTERROGATE PRISONERS OF WAR, ELICIT INFORMATION FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS, AND TO EXAMINE DOCUMENTARY MATERIALS TAKEN FROM THE ENEMY. THIS MISSION HAS RECEIVED THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.

4. (S) POK SAM AN BELIVES THAT HE NOW HAS A CLEAR INDICATION OF ENEMY INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SIEM REAP. HIS IDEAS FOLLOW TOGETHER WITH HIS VIEWS ON GENERAL LON NOL'S UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION.

A. IN ADDITION TO SIGNIFICANCE OF SIEM REAP AS THE SITE OF ANGKOR WAT WITH ITS IMPORTANT HISTORICAL RUINS, THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT AND MORE RECENT HISTORICAL CONNOTATIONS. IT WAS HERE, IN THE HOME OF HIS ANCESTORS, THAT SIHANOUK BEGAN HIS DRIVE TO LIBERATE CAMBODIA FROM FRANCE IN 1953-54. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO HELP SIHANOUK IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority EO 12958
Non Non

SECRET

-2- USDAO PHNOM PENH 225 JUNE 9 CN-1994

B. IT IS ALSO BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO DIVIDE CAMBODIA IN TWO WITH THE COMMUNIST ATTEMPTING TO SEIZE THAT PORTION OF CAMBODIA WHICH IS GENERALLY NORTH AND EAST OF TONLE SAP AND WHICH PARALLELS A LINE TRACED THROUGH SISOPHON (TA 8103), SIEM REAP (UV 7876), KOMPONG THOM (VV 8906), AND KOMPONG CHAM (WU 5033).

C. GENERAL LON NOL BELIEVES THAT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO HOLD CERTAIN REGIONS VITAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF HIS GOVERNMENT. THE CITIES CITED ABOVE ARE INCLUDED IN LON NOL'S LIST OF POPULATED AREAS HE MUST HOLD AT ALL COSTS. IN ADDITION, LON NOL FEELS THAT FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS HE CAN NOT ABANDON LABANSIEK (YA 1313) AND BA KEV (YA 3915) WHICH ARE GOVERNMENT STRONGHOLDS IN RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE. LON NOL ALSO CONSIDERS THAT THE EXTREMELY RICH PROVINCES OF KANDAL (IN WHICH PHNOM PENH IS LOCATED) AND KOMPONG CHAM, PLUS THE LAKE REGION OF SIEM REAP PROVINCE, ARE ATTRACTIVE OBJECTIVES FOR THE ENEMY BECAUSE HIS TROOPS HAVE LOST MOST OF THEIR FOOD SUPPLIES IN THE SANCTUARY AREAS, AND URGENTLY NEED THE RICE AND FISH AVAILABLE TO THE WEST.

D. FANK INTELLIGENCE REPORTS CONFIRM THAT THE ENEMY FORCES ROUTED FROM SANCTUARY AREAS BY ARVN AND US FORCES ARE MOVING GENERALLY TO THE NORTH AND WEST. EYE WITNESS REPORTS REVEAL THAT THE ENEMY IS MOVING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, USING ANY TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE. MOST ARE ON FOOT WITH SOME USING COMANDEERED BICYCLES, TRUCKS, AND MOTORCYCLES. A FEW HAVE BEEN SEEN ON ELEPHANTS. IMPRESSION IS THAT ENEMY IS MOVING WITH ALL SPEED POSSIBLE TO CONCENTRATE FORCES AGAINST KOMPONG THOM AND SIEM REAP. FOR THE MOMENT LABANSIEK AND BA KEV SEEM SAFE DUE TO PROXIMITY OF ARVN AND US FORCES, PLUS TIMELY PROVISION OF MATERIEL AND AIR SUPPORT FURNISHED THROUGH VNAF. PIETSCH SENDS. GP-3
BT

NOTE: HANDLE NODIS PER S/S-0, 6/9/70

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

EO 12958

Am

Room

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION